

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) A method for enriching the percentage of macrophages in a synovial sample of cells, the method comprising:

contacting a sample of cells with an antibody that binds to a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 (DC-SIGN), or an antigen-binding fragment of said antibody, wherein said sample of cells is obtained from a person with rheumatoid arthritis; and

separating cells that bind to said antibody or antigen binding fragment from cells that do not bind to said antibody or antigen binding fragment to thereby enrich the percentage of macrophages in said sample of cells.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said antibody is (i) an antibody produced by hybridoma ECACC accession number 99040818, or (ii) an antibody produced by hybridoma ECACC accession number 99040819.

22-23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said antibody or antigen binding fragment is attached to a solid support.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said sample is a synovial fluid sample.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said sample is a synovial membrane sample.
28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said separating comprises flow-cytometry or FACS.
29. (Canceled).
30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising contacting said sample of cells with an antibody that binds to CD68, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.
- 31-41. (Canceled).